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THE AUGUST FIRST CROP REPORT

Broadcast by E. J. Rowell, Agricultural Marketing Service,  
and Wallace Kadderly, Chief of Radio Service, Wednesday, August 13, 1941,  
in the Department of Agriculture portion, National Farm and Home Hour  
over stations associated with the NBC blue network.

--ooOoo--

KADDERLY:

The Department has released the August 1st condition of all important crops. E. J. "Mike" Rowell of the Agricultural Marketing Service will give us some of the highlights of this report. Will you proceed, Mike?

ROWELL:

O. K. Wallace.



And leading off with the general observation that crop prospects improved during July even though wet weather in the South and dry weather in some of the northern and western States cut down the prospective yields for most of the important crops.

KADDERLY:

Let's break that statement up--I'll name a few of the crops--you give us the information--starting with corn...

ROWELL:

Prospects are for a corn crop slightly over two and a half billion bushels, making it a bigger crop than last year and well above average. The prospects for corn in the corn belt were not so good as on the first of July, but the better crops in other sections more than offset this decline.

KADDERLY:

Next, wheat!

ROWELL:

A big wheat crop too, the largest since 1919. It'll total a little over 950 million bushels. That would be about one-sixth larger than last year.

KADDERLY:

Barley!

ROWELL:

It looks as though the barley crop this year would break all records--about 346 million bushels.

KADDERLY:

Rye!

ROWELL:

About 14 percent bigger crop than last year, but not quite as big a crop as we expected a month ago.

(OVER)

KADDERLY: What about soybeans?

ROWELL:

They're in fine condition this year--best of any year except 1939, and that was the record season for soybeans.

KADDERLY:

Hay! That's always an important crop.

ROWELL:

Yes, and we're apt to have the largest hay crop since 1927.

KADDERLY:

What about flax?

ROWELL:

Prospects are better than a month ago but probably we will have a smaller crop than last year--but still a crop three times as big as average.

Those are only a few of the highlights of the crop report.

I'd like to add a few words about the number of cattle on feed on August 1st.

KADDERLY:

Go right ahead.

ROWELL:

Well, briefly, there were 17 percent more cattle on feed in the eleven cornbelt States on August 1st this year than a year ago. This was not only a large relative increase, but also the actual number of cattle on feed was undoubtedly the largest for August 1st since the beginning of the drought period in 1934.